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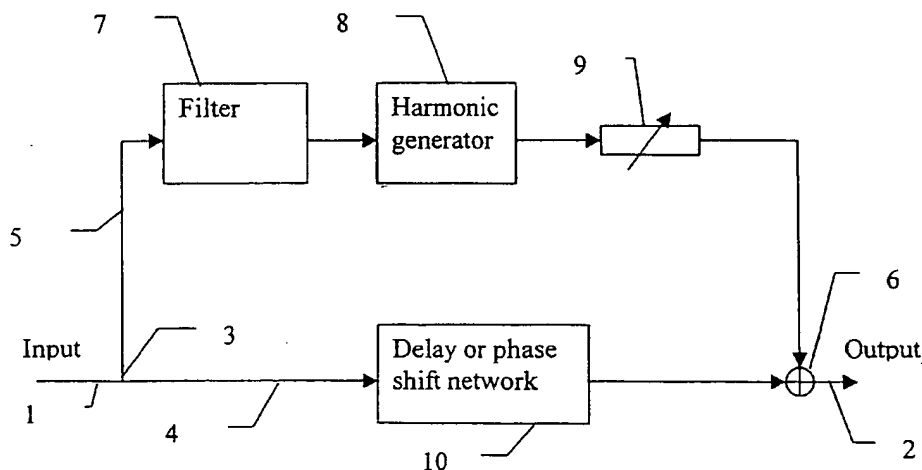
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(54) Title: **AUDIO BANDWIDTH EXTENDING SYSTEM AND METHOD**



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a virtual audio bandwidth extender, and more particularly a device for increasing the perceived bandwidth of audio signals in equipment having limited bandwidth, especially in mobile telephones. The invention also relates to a communication apparatus comprising such a device. The invention provides a device for increasing the perceived bandwidth in an audio signal path with limited bandwidth, comprising: an input terminal (1) for connecting an audio signal, and an output terminal (2) for connecting a speaker unit for generating an acoustic signal. According to the invention the device comprises a splitter (3) dividing the audio path into two branches, a first branch (4) for passing a part of the audio signal substantially without processing, and a second branch (5) for processing a part of the audio signal. The second branch comprises means for producing harmonics (7, 8, 9) of the audio signal. A combiner (6) is provided for adding the harmonics produced in the second branch to the part of the signal in the first branch at the output terminal. Thereby, the bandwidth is virtually extended resulting in enhanced quality of the audio signal.